



Swaroop RAD (GEM, USMB, IREGÉ)

Can you have your growth and eat it too? : Trade-offs between green growth and pro-poor growth in Brazil

There is much debate in the academic and public spheres about "green growth" and its relationship with reductions in absolute poverty. In the quest for a sustainable development that takes into account both of these factors (among others), policymakers, administrators, and banks often have had to pay attention to economic and social development impacts of their projects and programmes, as well as their environmental impacts. In this article, we look at energy-related projects of the Brazilian national development bank and analyse their effects on per capita GDP and employment using a difference-in-difference estimator. While doing so, we differentiate between clean energy projects and fossil energy projects and find that fossil energy projects associate with higher increases in per capita GDP as compared to clean energy projects. We posit that differences in skill and labour intensities of clean energy jobs and fossil energy jobs account for these different impacts of projects on per capita GDP. Empirical evidence is presented to suggest that clean energy investments might have comparatively lower economic and social development outcomes as fossil energy projects.

Keywords: green growth; poverty; employment creation; Brazil

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